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The first fact in conclusion that seems self-evident is that the idea of centralizing or consolidating the administrative side of state institutions is now in great favor and is increasing in popularity. Since 1900 out of twenty-two boards created, fourteen were administrative; only nine supervisory boards being established in that time. The figures are much more striking if we consider the period within the past five or six years. Since 1908 only two supervisory boards have been established in what is strictly the field of charitable institutions. During the same period nine administrative boards have been created in that field. (Some of these administrative boards being in the dual system, of course.) Again, in the governors' messages for 1915 the governors of four States definitely urge the creation of an administrative board to have full control over state institutions. In only one State did the governor recommend the creation of a supervisory board, although the governor of Missouri in his message opposed the board of control idea. Hence there is clearly a very definite and positive tendency at present towards the centralization of the control of state institutions.

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Mechanical Registration of Legislative Votes. Among the numerous devices developed and perfected for the regulation of legislative procedure, none is deserving of more thoughtful consideration than the installation of mechanical devices for the registration of the votes of the members of the legislative assembly. State constitutions invariably provide that an aye and no vote must be taken on the final passage of every measure. The time consumed in calling the roll, even by an energetic roll clerk, to ascertain whether a quorum is present, to suspend a constitutional rule, and on the passage of acts and resolutions, amounts in the aggregate to several days for each session. This traditional method is not only monotonous, burdensome and depressing, but it consumes time to no useful purpose and is particularly unsatisfactory in those States where the sessions are fixed by the constitution and where they have proved to be far too short to dispose the necessary business which the growth of modern industry has imposed upon legislative bodies. Wisconsin has taken one of the first steps to eliminate the traditional time-consuming practice of roll-calls. By an act approved July 29, 1915, the capitol building commission is required to purchase and install "an electrical and mechanical system for the instantaneous registration of the votes of the members of the

assembly on all questions requiring a roll call." The commission is authorized to expend as much as \$12,000 in the installation of this system, and the contractor is required to execute a suitable bond to keep the system in complete repair for a period of 5 years. The ultimate economy of a device capable of an instantaneous mechanical vote registration is undoubted, and the speedy introduction of similar systems in other States depends upon the accuracy which these machines are capable of attaining.

CHARLES KETTLEBOROUGH.

Secret Ballot in Argentine. An interesting and fundamental political event of outstanding importance of the present year is the employment of the secret ballot for the first time in the Argentine Republic, for the election of president. The secret ballot system was established in 1910, at the instance of the late President Saenz Pena. The president of Argentine is elected for a term of six years and is incapable of succeeding himself. It has been the custom of a president to name his successor; thus a close and unbroken coalition has been established between succeeding presidents and political traditions are thus perpetuated.

The voters are divided into two parties, the Conservatives and the Radicals. The chief dividing issue is the agrarian question; at the present time, the land is held by a few wealthy holders, members of the Conservative party; the Radicals demand a sub-division of these holdings and their distribution among numerous holders. The influence of well-distributed patronage, the efficient working of an effective machine, and in some cases the employment of the militia have stifled the expression of public sentiment and continued the Conservatives in power. The presence of a preponderating Radical sentiment has abundantly manifested itself in elections held under the new system. In Buenos Aires, a year ago, all of the deputies elected, to which the district is entitled, were Radicals. In the Province of Santa Fé, the second largest province in the republic, a Radical government was recently elected.

The system of counting votes in the Argentine is interesting; the ballots are all counted by a central committee and hence the results are not usually known until a month or six weeks after the election. Argentine also has a law which imposes a fine of \$10 on an elector who fails to exercise the right of suffrage. It frequently happens that a sufficient number of qualified electors fail to exercise the right of suf-